

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 161

By West

A RESOLUTION to recognize Martha A. Burton on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong educator, Martha A. Burton is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for over eighteen years as a teacher at Pearl-Cohn Comprehensive Business Magnet High School; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of her own education, Mrs. Burton enrolled at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, in 1965, and, after transferring to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, she graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Management, Housing, and Family Development; and

WHEREAS, in order that she might better serve her students and her community, Mrs. Burton furthered her education at the University of Tennessee, where she took a number of courses in the School of Social Work during the Fall Quarter of 1969; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, she earned her Master of Science in Psychology through the Child Development Specialist Program at Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, between 1998 and 2003, Mrs. Burton attended both Tennessee State University and Cumberland University, accruing more than thirty hours of graduate coursework and adding significantly to an already formidable education; and

WHEREAS, she is possessed of impeccable professional credentials as well; as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, she earned her Secondary Teaching Certificate and the Tennessee Department of Education has designated Mrs. Burton as a Master's Career Level II Teacher; and

WHEREAS, in her time as an instructor of Family and Consumer Sciences and Early Childhood Education at Pearl-Cohn, she has taught countless numbers of Nashville's young people, but her career as a professional educator began well before she arrived on the Pearl-Cohn campus; and

WHEREAS, in Virginia, shortly after her graduation from Virginia Tech, Ms. Burton served as an Extension Agent with the university's Expanded Nutrition Education Program, working with low-income youth and families to improve their health through better dietary habits; and

WHEREAS, by the late summer of 1970, Mrs. Burton had permanently relocated to Nashville and her first job in the City was with the Urban Observatory;

WHEREAS, in the fall of that same year, she accepted a position as an Assistant Teacher with the Community Care Center North Nashville, Incorporated, where she worked with mentally handicapped and economically challenged preschoolers; and

WHEREAS, for much of the early 1970s, Mrs. Burton taught at the Nashville Area Vocational-Technical School, where she served as a Trade Instructor, teaching post-secondary and adult students to provide child care and preschool instruction; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1977, Mrs. Burton began a ten-year career with Metropolitan Nashville General Hospital, where she served as a Child Health and Development Specialist in the Maternal and Infant Care Program; during her tenure, she strove mightily to ensure the health and well-being of many Nashville mothers and their babies; and

WHEREAS, after two years as a consultant to various agencies and organizations, she became the Director of the Kinder Care Learning Center in Hermitage; after more than a year in that role, she moved on to Pearl-Cohn in August 1990; and

WHEREAS, Martha Burton is an active and important part of her community and her profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, locally, she belongs to the Beta Lambda Chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron, the Nashville Association on Young Children, the Nashville Area Association of Family and Consumer Science Teachers, and the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association; and

WHEREAS, at the state and regional level, Mrs. Burton is a member of the Tennessee Association on Young Children, the Tennessee Association of Family and Consumer Science

Teachers, the Tennessee Association of Career and Technical Education Teachers, the Tennessee Education Association, and the Southern Association for the Education of Young Children; and

WHEREAS, her list of national memberships includes the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the American Association for Family and Consumer Science Teachers, the American Association of Career and Technical Education Teachers, and the National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Martha Burton was recently named the 2009 Outstanding Mentor by the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker Project at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Martha Burton has been recognized more than once for her outstanding service to Nashville's public schools. She was named the 2001 Teacher of the Year by the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools and, in the 2008-2009 school year, she received the Pearl-Cohn High School Teacher of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Burton was named the Family Life Educator of the Year in 2005, and the Tennessee Association of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America designated her as a Master Advisor in 2002; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many professional and educational accomplishments, Martha Burton perhaps is most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her family; her joyous marriage to Dr. Roderic N. Burton has produced three children: Quintin, Nathan, and Roderic Marthel; and

WHEREAS, her family has grown to include two daughters-in-law, Neicy and Amanda, and a granddaughter, Katherine Marie, on whom Mrs. Burton has been known to dote from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Martha Burton exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mrs. Burton has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Martha A. Burton our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors, extending our deepest gratitudes for many years spent educating Tennessee's youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.